

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 6-9, and 11-12 have been amended. Claims 15 and 16 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found throughout the specification, for example at page 2, lines 6-24 and at page 3, lines 8-27. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-16, as amended, will be pending.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,540,703 to Barker Jr. *et al.* ("Barker"). Claims 1, 4-5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,800,543 to McLeod *et al* ("McLeod").

With respect to the § 112 rejections, the amendments to the claims are believed to address these rejections. Specifically, the antecedent bases and other issues have been remedied and the claims are believed to be in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to the rejection in view of Barker, the amendments to the claims are believed to address this rejection. Specifically, Barker discusses methods of tying knots of cable around bones that have previously been compressed to hold them in place. Barker does not teach urging objects together. For at least this reason applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With respect to the rejection in view of McLeod, the amendments to the claims are believed to address this rejection. Specifically, McLeod discusses forming an artificial ligament. As such, Mcleod also does not teach urging objects together or locking. For at least this reason applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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